

# IN THE BEGINNING



Cooper's Cave - Page 22

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Woodson County Historical Society  
Yates Center, Kansas

Vol. 6 No. 24

## IN THE BEGINNING

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Lester A. Harding - Editor

### EDITOR'S NOTES —

Another volume of Woodson County history is completed, ending six years of IN THE BEGINNING. This has been a fairly successful year for this quarterly, and we are looking forward to another year of the same. We have much more historical material to get into print, and it will be just two years from now until the Centennial of Yates Center.

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We would like to add some names to lists that were omitted. In the April 1973 - Vol. 6 - No. 22, issue in the story of The First Methodist Church in Yates Center, the name of W. Kenneth Stockebrand was left out of the Sunday School Superintendents.

In the July, 1973-No. 23, In the pastors of the New York Valley Church of God, the following were omitted: Green, J.E. Stark, Tom Harlan and W.B. Wiggins. Rev. Wiggins was pastor there for eleven years.

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The sales and subscriptions of IN THE BEGINNING for 1973 has been increasing with each issue. The April and July issues will run over 460. A recent visitor to the museum, from Biloxie, Mississippi took four copies.

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A subscription to IN THE BEGINNING makes a good Christmas present for some relative or friend. Several have been doing this. It is a \$2.50 well spent.

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We still have several well bound, hard covered books of IN THE BEGINNING on hand. The first one covers the years of 1968-69 and the second one has the years 1970-71. This takes in the first four volumes. If you have well kept copies they can be traded in for \$4.75 a book or the books can be purchased at \$8.00 each.

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IN THE BEGINNING  
Published Quarterly By  
Woodson County Historical Society  
Yates Center, Kansas

\$2.50 per year

65 cents a copy

**WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
Organized March, 1965

An electrical storm accompanied by a heavy downpour of rain hit Yates Center, early in the evening on Sunday, July 22, 1973. This downpour cancelled the annual July picnic that is held by this Historical Society. No other one was scheduled for this year.

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The Woodson County Historical Museum has been a fairly busy place despite the gas shortage. The register has been signed by 6, with 16 states besides Kansas represented. Also visitors from Mexico and Brazil. This has been since the opening in May. Several groups have toured the Museum.

Two separate classes of the Bible School of the First Baptist Church with their teachers visited the museum. Also the West Owl Creek EHU, held one of their meetings in the museum.

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Many of our local people are visiting the museum for the first time this year, but there still are many home people that have not been inside of the building.

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In Memoriam

Neva E. Mulsow	46	June 14, 1973
Miss Mulsow was a charter member of the Woodson County Historical Society.		

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Mrs. Maynie Beine	78	August 4, 1973
Mrs. Beine was also a charter member of the Woodson County Historical Society.		

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Mrs. Maud Dingus	90	August 15, 1973
Mrs. Dingus held a Life Membership in the Woodson County Historical Society. Mrs. Dingus had been making her home in Arvada, Colo., for several years.		

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Some new additions added to the museum are some old pictures of interest sent by Irvin Bedford, who lives in California.

Another item of interest added this year is the Chickering Grand Piano made of rosewood, around 1875, and placed there by Mrs. Neva Kilby and daughter, Norma Kress.

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Join and Support  
Woodson County Historical Society

Life Membership \$25.00

Regular Membership \$2.00 a year

## TWO CENTURIANS —

There are two people living in Yates Center whom we would like to tell about in this October issue of *In The Beginning*.

On October 16, 1973, Mrs. Grace Downey will observe her 101st birthday. Grace E. Hyde was born on a farm in the southern part of Indiana, on October 16, 1872. Her parents were farmers in that vicinity.

Here she grew up and on November 16, 1890, she was married to Ed Downey. For several years they farmed in that vicinity, and in 1894, they moved to Woodson County, where Mr. Downey's brother, Harry Downey lived. Here their three children were born: Mildred, (Mrs. Lacey); Russell Downey, and Pauline (Mrs. VanWormser), who passed away several years ago.

Just before her 100th birthday, Mrs. Downey wrote several pages of "A Short Story of My Life." In this she told of her girlhood on the farm in southern Indiana. She worked during harvest for neighbors for a dollar a week, eating her breakfast and supper by coal oil lamps. "But we were all healthy and enjoyed life to the fullest. We never dreamed we would see a horseless carriage as we called them."

In 1940, Mr. and Mrs. Downey celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. Mr. Downey passed away just seven months later. For 32 years the Downeys were in the grocery and meat on the square in Yates Center. Many hundreds of home butchered steak was sold for 10 and 15 cents a pound.

In a talk with Mrs. Downey, some time ago we found her to be the same remarkable woman that she was when we interviewed her on her 96th birthday. She does her own housework and takes care of herself at her home.

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On October 28, 1873, in a small log cabin along Owl Creek north of the present Yates Center, twin sons were born to Mr. and Mrs. Antone Toedman. They were given the names of Wesley and Louis.

The story of how their mother died when they were two years old and they were raised by an uncle August Toedman is told in an article in the issue of April, 1972 (Vol. 5 - No. 18) of *In The Beginning*.

When about 15 years old these twin brothers herded sheep and cattle for their uncle on the prairie about 12 miles west and north of Yates Center. This was during the years from 1888 until about 1897. A herd of around 1500 sheep and 450 cattle would be driven from the Toedman farm at Durand to this open range.

Wesley makes his home at the Hillcrest Nursing Home, A daughter-in-law, Mrs. Margie Toedman and a grandson, Gordon Toedman live in Topeka.

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## NATHANIEL CHAMBERS FAMILY —

One of the first settlers to settle in southern Coffey County and northern Woodson County was Nathaniel L. Chambers.

He was born in Davies County, Indiana in 1837.

In 1856 Nathaniel Chambers and Phoebe J. Trueblood were married in Indiana. Phoebe was the daughter of Mark and Charlotte Trueblood, and was the oldest of eleven children.

Thinking that they could do better by coming west, Mr. and Mrs. Chambers and a six month old daughter, Charlotte came to Coffey County in spring of 1858, settling on a farm along Big Creek, six miles south and a mile west of Burlington. Here four more children were born - Margaret, Nettie, Amanda and Jesse.

Jesse was born on October 30, 1861. Just 21 days later, Nathaniel Chambers rode his horse to Neosho Falls, where on November 20, 1861, he enlisted as a private in Co. F Ninth Kansas Volunteer Cavalry. He was 24 years old. His address was given as Big Creek, Coffey County.

He served three years and three months or until the end of the Civil War, leaving his wife and five children in the little log cabin along Big Creek. He would make a rare trip to see them. His oldest daughter, Charlotte (Mrs. G.W. Williams) recalled to us one time that she could remember on one occasion that her father stopped at the cabin door one night, while on a military mission. He just stepped inside the door and never let loose of his horses reins, and was soon on his way.

Chambers returned from the war in time to start spring farming. About four years later, in January, 1869, Nathaniel or Than as he was known as purchased a 40-acre farm on Turkey Creek from John W. Smith. This farm was located 9¼ miles north and a mile west of present Yates Center. Just to the west of this 40 acres was an 80 acres that had never been filed and obtained on, so Chambers filed and obtained a patent for this land. The original forty going south to Turkey Creek and the eighty going north to Duck Creek. The forty acres costing \$500.

A couple years later, in October, 1871, a caravan of wagons that came from Indiana, arrived at the Chambers home. In one of the wagons was the family of Henry Trueblood, who was a brother of Mrs. Chambers.

In 1881, Nathaniel S. Chamber sold this farm to James Baldwin a nearby rancher and moved up the creek where he purchased 40 acres of the Pusey Graves homestead and his son-in-law, George W. Williams purchased the remaining 120 acres of the farm. The Williams' built a new set of buildings along the east side of the creek.

As mentioned Nathaniel and Phoebe Chambers had five children:

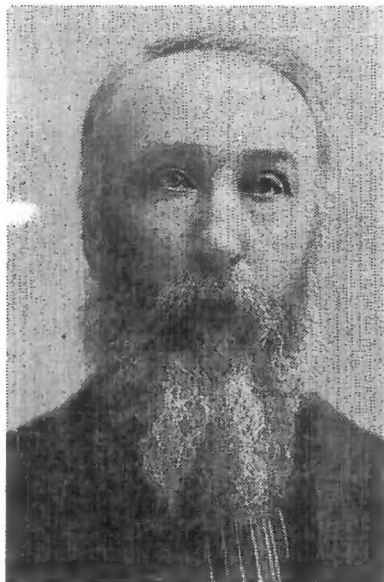
Charlotte was married to George W. Williams. Their children were: John W., who married Clara E. Mentzer; Dovie, who married Homer O. Etter; Clara who married Frank Macoubrie, and George N. who married Fern VanArsdale.

Margaret, who married Theodore H. Faulkner. Their children were Nellie, who married Alec Latham, and a son who died young.

Nettie, who married George Brenner. Their children were: Viola, Cecil, Thelma, Bertha and Clifford.

Amanda died as a young girl.

Jesse Chambers, who married Flora Stines. Their children were: Ray, Earl, Arthur, Minnie, Maude, Lee, Glenn, Leslie C.



**Nathaniel Chambers**

Phoebe Chambers died in 1895, and Nathaniel five years later. They are both buried in the Askren Cemetery. The inscription on the grave of Mr. Chambers reads, "He was a Volunteer in the Service of His Country. Serving three years and three months — Co. F. of the 9th Kansas Cavalry".

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N.L. Chambers along with Capt. W.J. Haughawout and H.T. Hefflefinger were the appraisers for the lots donated to Woodson County by the Defiance Town Company in September 1876.

This was a last-ditch fight by the Defiance Town Company to hold the county seat. The amount of lots to be donated to the county — "Do hereby appraise the whole thing for \$2,000."

## HAY BALERS AND HAY BALING —

Prior to the time when hay balers became more plentiful the hay was stacked or put up loose in the barn. Later the farmer could get someone fortunate enough to have a baler to come and bale the hay when they were not so busy. In our files we have a letter by the late Orrin C. Rose, who lived his latter years in Amarilla, Texas. In it he described the first hay press he ever saw that came into the Pleasant View vicinity north of Yates Center, in 1884-85. Mr. Rose was about 90 years old at the time of his writing. He was raised about four miles north of town. We will quote a part of his letter.

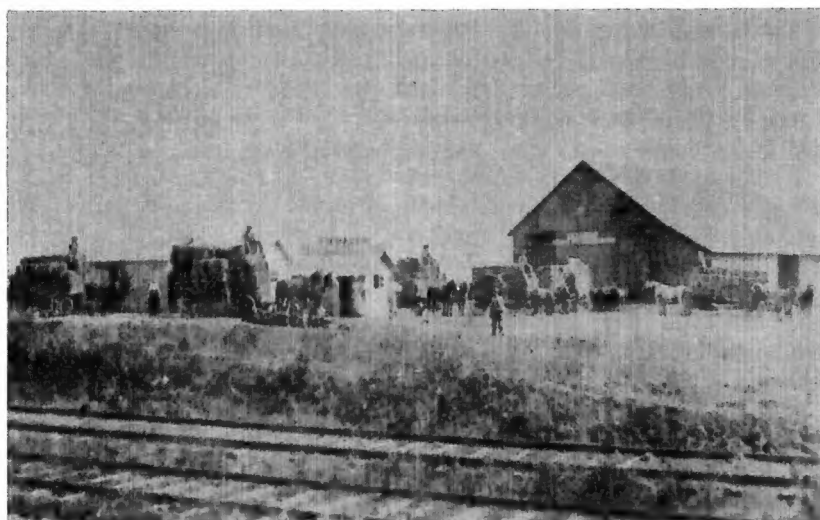
"The first hay press that I remember was in 1884 or '85. It was brought to our farm in Pleasant View to bale some hay from the stack. A man named Springer from Neosho Falls owned it. The press was almost entirely of wood. It stood on heavy wooden-spoked wheels and wide tires much like the wide tired wagons of later years. The horses traveled a half circle and turned back to make another half circle, each time producing one plunger stroke. The hay was pushed into the side of the press.

The bale tie was home made, the wire coming in a coil containing about 80 rods in length. It was necessary to take the wire from the core and stake it out on the meadow or field. Then with the end of the wire attached to a post the team on the other end gave a good hard pull taking the stretch out of the line. When the team had been detached from the line of wire, a man working at the home end, and using a small frame, twisted loops in each end of eight foot sections of the wire. When wrapped around the bale (three wires on each) the loop on the end was put through the loop on the opposite end and an old fashioned cut nail was put into the loop and driven into the bale. In the next years or so the ties were changed to a loop on only one end.

"We used the first 'bull rake' or 'sweep rake' I ever saw. Although Mr. Spencer and Father may have copied one they had seen, or built one from description read in some paper. The teeth were fashioned from pine 2 by 4's from the lumber yard, and the frame made from heavier lumber. At each end of the frame, a clevis was placed, to which a rope long enough to maneuver without the horse getting into the teeth of the sweep. Walter Spencer and this writer (Orrin Rose) were astride those horses. When we had put the hay as close to the baler as possible, we turned our horses and pulled the sweep rake far enough back to again turn and go for another load.

Arrangements had been made to mow and move to the baler all the hay Thomas Laidlaw was having baled that year. Most of it was on unfenced land and grazed by neighborhood cattle but most of it had fairly good hay. Rose and hired help did the mowing, using two mowers, a Walter A. Wood and a Buckeye mower, each having a 4½ foot cutting bar, and each had a steel pitman and those pitmen were subject to frequent breakage. Mr. Ferdinand Spencer looked after the curing of the hay, the raking and getting it to the baling crew.

Because of its construction and method of power it was not possible to get the hay as close to the baler, as with later types of balers, with the bull rakes. So the crew contained two men working close to the baler and two more to help move the hay closer. That year, at least for most of the season, Charlie Laidlaw and brother Bert Laidlaw, Fred Stephenson and his brother Oscar Stephenson were the baling crew." It was believed that this press described was one of the Laidlaw hay presses.



This picture was taken at Batesville. At one time much prairie hay was baled nearby and shipped from Batesville. This picture shows the F.H. Bayer, scale house, office and barns. F.H. Bayer was a large dealer in hay at that time. This was a very busy place for many years. The picture shows at least six wagon loads of hay waiting to be unloaded either in the several barns at Batesville at that time or loaded into hay cars to be shipped.

Batesville was an active place during the haying season with several hay crews camped nearby.

Besides the hay operations shown here, F.H. Bayer had other hay barns nearby and also operated a general store at Batesville; that during the haying season was almost a tent town in the surrounding meadows.

## THE GASTIN REEVES FAMILY —

While there were several Reeves families along the Verdigris Valley, the one we want to tell about in this article was Gastin Reeves.

Gastin Reeves and son Max Reeves first came to this valley in the spring of 1857. They staked out claims at that time although they had no legal right to this land as it was still Osage Indian land. It was in the fall of 1857, that the family of Gastin came to their new home. We believe that the wife of Gastin was Mathilda.

Their claim was somewhere south of where Toronto now is and not far from the Greenwood County line. The land where their claim was is now what is Wilson County, although it was a part of Woodson County at that time.

Gastin Reeves was a native of Arkansas, but evidently had moved around different states. There was a large family of these Reeves, and the ages of the children do not always correspond on different records.

The life of Gastin Reeves was not long in this new and raw frontier. Evidently he had built a log cabin, but his children were not all at home. On May 7, 1859, Gastin Reeves died. The notice of his death was given to the Probate Judge John Woolman, at Neosho Falls. Judge Woolman in turn appointed the oldest son, Albert H. Reeves, as administrator. For the administrator in this case it was quite a task as there were around nine or ten children under age.

No wife is mentioned in the probate proceedings of Mr. Reeves. The children and their ages are as follows:

The oldest son mentioned, Albert H., 22 and unmarried. Marriat, 20; Wm. M., 18; Marion, 16; Jackson, 14; Mary Ann, 11; Sylvia B., 8; Elizabeth, 6; Ella W., 4; Enoch S., 1. The ages of some of these children differ in the census of 1860 and 1870. We will tell more about these children after the settling of the estate of Gastin Reeves. Some of these children were listed as living in Woodson and some in Greenwood Counties so evidently the family had been split up into different homes.

Albert H. Reeves had been sworn in as administrator by Joseph Rich, Justice of Peace. Roll Pearsall, John W. Brown and E.D. Cudsey, were appraisors. Henry H. Opdike and Geo. J. Caven were appointed to help the administrator as securities.

A public sale was held for the belongings of Gastin Reeves, as soon as it could be arranged. Some of the items and what they brought are:

1 Yoke of oxen - \$70.00	Spinning Wheel - \$ 1.50
1 Yoke of oxen - \$71.00	1 old stove & furniture - \$ 3.50
1 Bay Mare - \$40.00	Feather bed & pillows - \$10.50
1 Cow and calf - \$27.50	Side saddle - \$ 7.00

The total for all of the belongings of Reeves amounted to \$548.50. Four "rifle guns" brought from one to seven dollars each. J. Edwin Kellogg was acting clerk of sale.

The administrator obtained permission from the probate judge for "private sale for certain amount of rails together with a claim on the Osage lands, did sell to John H. Hancock for seventy five dollars, \$35 being paid in hand and remaining of \$40 to be paid before 25 December, 1860."

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The address of Albert Reeves was given as Woodson County in May, 1859. However, in June 1857, he established the post office of Pleasant Grove, about two and a half miles north and west of Toronto. He was also listed as County Clerk of Greenwood County, although the first official election of Greenwood was not until 1862. In the early days of the different county organizations, county lines were rather vague.

Marion Reeves enlisted in Company G. Ninth Regiment Kansas Volunteer Cavalry, October 15, 1861, evidently at Humboldt. He was 19 years old and gave his birthplace as Missouri, and his address as Verdigris, Woodson County. At the end of the Civil War he returned to the Verdigris Valley, where he was married to Jane Roe on November 25, 1866.

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At the start of this story we mentioned there were several different family of Reeves'. And it seemed like about each one of them had a boy named Enoch.

Wm. M. Reeves, just older than his brother Marion, enlisted in Co. F., Ninth Reg. Kansas Volunteer Cavalry, on November 15, 1861. He was 23 and gave his birthplace as Arkansas and his residence as Pleasant Grove, Woodson County.

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We would like to tell something about one of these Enoch Reeves. We do not know all of the connections of these Reeves families, but a Terrill Reeves, settled in the Verdigris Valley in Pleasant Grove township, just across the county in Greenwood, County.

Enoch Reeves was living in Woodson County in 1860 and was 28 years old. He had come from Indiana. At that time his personal and land values amounted to \$5000. In September 25, 1860, Enoch Reeves was married to Sarah Jane Gordy.

In the March 21, 1912, issue of the Toronto Republican, Tom Larue, an old timer south of Toronto, told in an interview with the editor, E.E. Kelley, the following:

Enoch Reeves, who in 1861 married one of A.C. Gordy's sisters, was the big man of the period. Tom said Enoch Reeves could sit on the woodpile and whittle and make more money than some men could make working in the field with a dozen hands. He was a far-seeing man gave much accomodations to men to induce them to settle here. Reeves also furnished the timber and it was the

sawed at the mill and went into early houses of Toronto — into the old bank building and town hall, into the dwelling where Frank Elvin lived and into the frame house where F.F. Mills lived. It was good oak and walnut timber that was put into dimension stuff — sills, 8 by 10, and other timbers in proportion."

Enoch Reeves was President of the Toronto Town Company when the town was laid out in 1869.

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While Ella Reeves was listed as being four years old at the time of her father's death in 1859, another source gives her as the first child born in the county — that being in the fall of 1857, the same year Gastin Reeves family settled in Woodson County.

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#### YATES CENTER NEWS - 1894 —

**APRIL**—If you need harness I have what you want at prices that can't be duplicated in the county. I have on hand an unusually large stock and will sell cheap. The celebrated Cork Collar, the best made. Try one and you will use no other. Saddles, bridles and everything kept in a live harness establishment . . . . . I.J. Camac.

The town cow is around locating the gates that are left open, and leaving her card upon the sidewalks in front of the places where the gates are closed.

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It would be worthwhile for the ladies to bear in mind that if they would take a gentle course of Ayers Saraparilla in the Spring they will have no trouble with "prickly heat", "hives", "sties", "boils" or "blackheads" when Summer comes. Prevention is better than cure.

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Shipments from this place over the Missouri-Pacific Railroad during the six months ending March 31, 1894 amount to 513 carloads, 442 cars of hay sent out and 71 cars livestock etc.

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Woodson County pays over \$200 to the sheriff of Allen County for boarding prisoners in the jail at Iola. It would have been much better if Woodson County could only build a jail and board her prisoners at home.

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**MAY** — Louie Crandall says they were recently offered \$100,000 cash for their elegantly equipped ranch on Turkey Creek.

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Frank Peters and Dollie Ozburn were married at the P.W. Ozburn home near the Finney Church, May 4, 1894.

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Liberty Notes - Mr. and Mrs. George Harding have moved to their new home on the True farm..

## BATESVILLE UNITED BRETHERN CHURCH –

Eight miles west of Yates Center on US 54, was for many years the location of the Batesville United Brethern Church. It was first organized in the Cedarvale, Dist. No. 69 schoolhouse, a mile west and a mile north of Batesville.

Rev. Robinson of the Crandall, Kansas, U.B. Church held a meeting in this schoolhouse in 1889 and organized the first class with the following among the charter members: Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Klick, Mr. and Mrs. S.G. Paris, Mr. and Mrs. N.L. Allen, Mr. and Mrs. Dave Gailey and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Smith. Rev. Robinson seemed to have a special gift for organizing new churches.

The first baptizing occurred in April of 1890 in Cedar Creek on the farm of Lewis Klick. N.L. Allen led the singing of "Come Thou Fount" as the crowd stood on the creek bank on a beautiful Sabbath afternoon.

Rev. Powell was the next pastor and his task was to fill the new church with new members.

Quarterly meetings in those horse and buggy days were great occasions. Often members from the Carlisle U.B. Church three miles south of Toronto would come in on Saturday in time for the afternoon meeting and stay until Sunday afternoon.

Lewis Klick, bought a house at Batesville about 1910-11. He felt that there was a need for a church building at Batesville. Lewis Klick and S.G. Paris were two of the trustees and started making plans for a new church. Rev. Berch was the presiding elder of this district and was a source of strength and inspiration in the building of the church. Land for the building site was purchased from Henry Bayer.

The land purchased was on the corner on south side of road. The building was completed and dedicated in June of 1912. Some members were asked to furnish the roof, another the floor and so on and soon the church was built. The new Board of Trustees were Lewis Klick, William Ogilvie, H.L. Klick, J.N. Redfearn and S.G. Paris.

Rev. Berch held the dedication service on a beautiful, warm sabbath day. The church was crowded to capacity. A son of Mr. Paris was in the crowd with measles just at the right stage to give away. For weeks after the dedication almost every family had a case of measles, and some three or four cases at a time.

For several years prior to 1940 the trustees and congregation at Batesville knew that Highway 54 was to be relocated and the church would have to be moved. It was in January of 1941 when they received definite word and they decided to move the church. Mrs. J.W. Tipton and children, Lucia and George and A.W. Tipton gave, without cost, the location along the north side of 54 Highway, where it stood until being moved to Yates Center.



**Batesville E.U.B. Church**

The re-dedication of the Batesville Church in its new location was held May 4, 1941. Headline speaker for this service was Bishop V.O. Weidler of Southwest area. Dr. C.V. Priddle, superintendent of the Kansas Conference and other ministers took part in the dedication service. Miss Regina Heatherington was the pastor and the board of Trustees were: Henry Klick, George Tipton, A.W. Tipton, Jasper Redfearn and Ira Hassenpflug.

In 1955, the church along with all others in this conference changed to the Evangelical United Brethren Church.

**Pastors Serving Batesville Church —**

J.I. Robinson (Organizer) 1890; W.S. Howell, '91; R.B. Kirkpatrick, '93; G.H. Hinton, '94; L.D. Wimmer, '95; L.W. Stone, '96; W.S. Howell, '98; William Shrope, '99; T.A. Darling, 1900; H.F. Pool, '02; F.C. and Ollie Decater, '05; W.H. Ayling, '06; O.M. McHugh, '09; Fred S. Johnson, '10 (six months); Sutter family, '10 (six months) J.C. Hofner, '11; J.M. Rogers, '12; Rev. Enyeart, '13; U.S.G. Prowell, '15; J.M. Beltz, '16; J.L. Thompson, '17; J.N. Blackburn, '21; T.C. Burns, '22; G.N. Halsey, '23; C.L. Daley, '24; M.A. Fallet, '25; O.S. Jones, '26; M.V. Miliken, '30; E.N. Montgomery, '32; I.B. Prather, '34; Regina Heatherington, '39; Clyde and Bessie Koontz, '42; Ralph Walters, '46; Harold Jenson, '53; H. Marvin Bowers, '57 -

Sunday School Superintendents at Batesville Church —

S.G. Paris, Dave Patterson, N.L. Allen, Lewis Klick, Alice Klick, Eli Ropp, Cornelious McNitt, H.W. Klick.

The last service was held in this church, May 28, 1967, and the congregation all transferred to the United Methodist Church in Yates Center, in June of that year.

## DRY CREEK - DISTRICT NO. 12 SCHOOL —

As one drives down the crooked road of the Dry Creek Valley, in a picturesque setting stood a small native sandstone schoolhouse. This schoolhouse was built by Robert Daly, a first settler in that valley.

In 1865 when the Askren District No. 2 school was organized it took in all of the northwest corner of Woodson County. Some of the pupils from along Dry Creek, attended the District No. 2 school. In 1868, a strip, beginning at the northwest corner of the county and running eleven miles south and three miles wide was taken from District 2 and formed the school district No. 12.

The first school in the new district was held in a log cabin, evidently an early settlers home. J.A. Lynn, of Neosho Falls taught this school in 1873 and 1874, and it was from his recollection that we obtained in 1934, about this log schoolhouse. It stood very near the creek, with the north end toward the creek. At one time a fire place had been in the north end, but at that time had been boarded up and the building heated with a large stove.

People living in the district at that time were Martin Shea, Hugh Geraughty (Garritty), Henry J. Neiman, Keeney, ----- Norris, and Daly. It was quite an Irish settlement and furnished its share of Irish wit in early Woodson County history.

J.A. Lynn taught two six-month terms at District No. 12, during the winter's of 1873 and '74. During the two winters he taught there he killed five deer along the creek, killing two with one shot with a muzzle loading shotgun, using six No. 4 buckshot.

It was most likely that the stone school building was built soon after Mr. Lynn taught the school.

Teachers at District No. 12, beginning in 1881 were: Libbie Gilroy, Jacob Ragle, Libbie Wyatt, Lonis Wiley, Maggie Edmundson, Louie Lossing, Sylvia Mitchell, Edna Hastings, W.P. Dickerson, A. Huff, Lula Coronet, 1892, Bettie Huff, Ella Hibbard, Jessie Gephart, Lizzie McClouskey, A.A. Miller, Maggie Swisher, 1900; Mabel Tyler, Lela Shurtleff, Zoe E. Johns, Emma Fulhage, Maude Owens, Mary Alvis, Jesse C. Nelson, Rosa Barnard, Bessie Hughes, Grace Smith, Fern Williams, Blanche Rogers, Ferne Starrett, Helen Durham, Marguarite Cook, Elsie Wooten, Max O'Brian, Esther Reno, Virgie Cunningham, 1927-28; Georgia Sherman, Neva Slough, Mabel Massey, Faye Hancock, Florence Williamson, Nadine Rhea, Laura Mae Ruth, Mrs. Ruth Williams, Jean Ireland, Deane Campbell, Alice Crooks, 1943-44.

Alice Crooks was the last teacher at District 12, and in February 14, 1947, Dist. 12 was consolidated with Stony Point District 45. The school board at that time was R.W. Rhea, M.J. Marhofer and Mrs. Rebecca Mabes.



The teacher and pupils of the Dry Creek School, Dist. No. 12, taken in 1900. The teacher in the back row was Maggie Swisher. Closest to the teacher in the back row was Nellie Burns, next to her was Lizzie McClousky. The boy to the right by the window, Elmer Gustin, to his right was Fred Burns. The rest have not been identified but believe that some of them are in the list of pupils attending the school in 1903.

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The teacher of District No. 12 in 1903 was Lela Shurtleff and the pupils were: Jennie Burns, Fred Burns, Nellie Burns, Leslie Burns, Maude Gustin, Mabel Gustin, Elmer Gustin, Lizzie McClouskey, George Smith, Rosa Smith, Blanch VanDolah, Claude VanDolah, Russell VanDolah, Gilbert VanDolah, Donnell VanDolah, Clifford VanDolah.

The school board that year were: S.C. Gustin, clerk; J.M. VanDolah, treasurer; A. Singleton, director.

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Pupils attending the Dry Creek School in 1910 were: Lela Burns, Nellie Burns, Sophia Burr, Nellie Burr, Sylvia Burr, Dorothy Burr, Grace Counterman, Lucy Counterman, Ralph Counterman, May Daly, Robert Daly, Walter Daly, Florence Gustin, Marie Gustin, Sylvia Gustin, Cora Miller, Leslie Miller, Walley McClouskey. The teacher was Bessie Hughes.

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Being made of stone the old school house is still standing the roof has been removed and it is very well delapidated.

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## THE ELIAS WILSON NAYLOR FAMILY —

E.W. or "Wilse" Naylor as most everyone knew him for many years around Yates Center, was a small, quiet sort of a man who became a large hay dealer of Woodson County.

E.W. Naylor was born near Carlisle, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. April 12, 1851. His parents were George and Ann (Stevick) Nailor. The name of Naylor has varied from Naylor, Nailor, Nailor. In 1857, when he was six years old his parents and nine children left Pennsylvania and went by rail to near Leo, Allen County, Indiana. Seven of these children later came to Woodson County, along with the father George Nailor, who is buried at the Askren Cemetery.

In 1873, when he was 22 years old, E.W. Naylor went to Chicago, where he stayed for three months. He was there during the financial panic of 1873 when all of the banks were closed. Leaving Chicago in November of that year, he came to Woodson County Kansas, where several of his sisters were living. His sisters here were: Mrs. Annie Butler, Mrs. Lydia Hutchins, Mrs. Sarah Tebbens, Mrs. Minerva Stewart, Mrs. Joe Sturdivan and one brother, George Naylor of Coffey County.

Arriving here early in the winter of 1873, E.W. Naylor, worked for some of the Weides on Turkey Creek, and on April 8, 1874, he started teaching at the Askren School District No. 2. He also taught there the following winter. One of his pupils was Christina Miller, whose full name was Margaret Christina Miller.

In July, 1875, E.Wilse Naylor and Miss Margaret Christina Miller were married. Christina Miller was born in Ohio and had come to Woodson County with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Miller in 1860.

On a high hill overlooking the Turkey Creek Valley was the homestead of E.W., and wife. About in the center of section 14, Twp. 24 R. 14. Their frame house was about three-quarter mile west of the Turkey Creek Church. Buying 80 acres from David Askren that lay along Turkey Creek, this was made into a fine farm.

At the time Mr. Naylor came here the entire northwest corner of Woodson County was known as Liberty township. About 1888 due to a misunderstanding over some railroad bonds election, Liberty Township was divided and the west

part taking the name of North Township, although at first it was to be named Independence. E.W. Naylor was elected as the first trustee for the new township, and helped in the organization of it.

After accumulating several hundred acres of land in North and Liberty townships, the Naylor in 1903, moved to Yates Center. Mr. and Mrs. Naylor were the parents of four children, two of whom died in infancy. Those living were Bessie and Wilbur. W.



The Naylor family left to right: Mrs. Margaret Christina Naylor, Wilbur W., E.W. Naylor and Bessie.

Bessie married Charles E. Lewis. They had two children, Merwin and Elizabeth, (Mrs. David Traston). Charles Lewis was a prominent hardware merchant in Yates Center for several years, as was his father before him.

Wilbur Naylor married Katherine Wyse. They had one son, R. Willis.

Wilbur Naylor was assistant cashier of the Yates Center National Bank, and later was the cashier. In later years he was in the hay business with his father.

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To the majority of people in North township, Mr. and Mrs. Naylor were known as Uncle Wilse and Aunt Tena. Before moving to town they were active in the Finney M.E. Church, later changing their membership to the Evangelical Church in Yates Center. On his 80th birthday, less than two years before his death Mr. Naylor wrote an article for the Yates Center News about his life. This he divided into four periods. The first period was in Cumberland Co. Pennsylvania, where he was born and spent the first six years of his life.

Then with his parents, brother and sisters emigrated to Allen Co. Indiana. This was 12 miles north of Ft. Wayne. The land there was nearly all covered with large timber.

His next move was to Kansas and living in Liberty township for 30 years. He ended up the summary of his life by writing that "Yates Center is now a nice place — a good place to live."

Elias W. Naylor died December 27, 1932.

#### WOODSON COUNTY POST - NEOSHO FALLS, KANSAS

January 21, 1874 —

"Last week at the sale of the estates of the late Ambrose Logue, Mrs. Joseph Logue had deposited her three month old baby in a little box cradle while getting dinner. Several ladies came in and carelessly threw their shawls and wrappings on the cradle until finally the baby was lost in the accumulating mass of paraphernalia and the cradle presented the appearance of a mere pile of shawls etc.

Another woman came in and deposited her baby on the bed and sat down on the cradle. She had been there perhaps fifteen minutes when Mrs. Logue came in and looked for her baby. She screamed and caught hold of the lady on the cradle and soon brought her dead baby.

It was a sad sight to see the grief stricken mother and equally grief-stricken lady who was the cause of the poor mother's sorrow. Yet the mother did not and could not blame the woman who reproached herself more than anyone could imagine."

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August 12, 1874 —

"One day last week John B. Prutzman was arrested on complaint of Alex Hamilton, charged with willfully and maliciously shooting four horses. Now when J.B. was duly arraigned before Justice Atchinson, he concluded the best thing was to plead guilty. Where upon his honor thought that the shooting of four horses was worth about \$4.00 — this enormous fine John paid without a murmur and went home."

(This rather flippant account by the editor brought a letter to the paper the following week, giving the reason for the shooting of the horses.) These horses had gotten into the corn field of J.B. Prutzman several times, and he and his wife had spent considerable time chasing them out. Prutzman had no horse to ride so he and his wife had to chase them out on foot. As a last resort he took to shooting horses.

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Just two year later in August, 1876, the Post carried this account.

"A terrible bloody affray occurred on Cherry Creek last Saturday between Alex Hamilton and W.J. May in which May was badly cut up with a knife and

Alex was badly choked and bruised and also bitten by May's dog. Each man claims to have fought in self defense, and as no one was present but themselves it is fair to presume that each tells the truth."

Shortly after this fight, Hamilton was arrested on complaint of J.B. Prutzman who seemingly had a stake in this fight.

#### LOMANDO PIERCE —

In the very northwest corner of section 27, Twp. 24, R. 16, not very far from the bank of Cherry Creek, entirely surrounded by trees, brush, blackberry vines and dead trees is a lonely grave, with a headstone bearing the simple inscription, Lomando Pierce — no date. This grave is only about a hundred yards from where the old right-of-way of the Santa Fe railroad that went from Neosho Falls to Yates Center. And it is about the only thing to remind one of the once thriving community call Lomando.



Lomando P. Pierce was born at Berryville, Sullivan Co., New York, March 20, 1852. His father Robert Pierce was a native of New Jersey, while his mother Amy Matthews Pierce was a native of New York. In 1884, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Pierce, moved to Kansas, purchasing a farm six miles east of Yates Center, where he died in 1889.

Lomando P. Pierce moved with his parents to Illinois when he was about eight years old. He started working for a grocery merchant when he was fifteen and worked at different locations in Illinois and St. Louis, Mo., until about 1885 when he came to Woodson County.

Pierce was married to Miss Addah Fellows, Feb. 17, 1880. They came to the home of his father where he farmed for about ten years. They had two children, Frank and Florence. In 1895 when the Santa Fe Railroad was built from Neosho Falls to Yates Center, Pierce purchased a tract of land along the right-of-way from the John Stange estate where the railroad cut across the corner of the Stange farm.

Mr. Pierce established a station along the railroad on his tract, and called it Lomando. He also put up a building where he operated quite a store of general groceries and other items that the community would need. On February 28, 1895, Lomando Pierce established a post office in his store, with himself as post master. The post office naturally was called Lomando. This postoffice remained until the Rural Free Delivery took over in 1903.

Lomando is another of the several thriving villages of Woodson County that sprang up and faded away, but during the lifetime of the community it became quite a hay shipping center with from 200 to 300 carloads of hay being shipped from there annually. There were several hay barns nearby, and was a very busy place at times with many farmers and dozens of horses hauling baled hay. These hay barns are all gone from there now.

Lomando P. Pierce died Feb. 26, 1907 and was buried near his home where we mentioned in the start of this article. It is believed that his son was also buried near there.

Mrs. Pierce was killed by a train. This was evidently after the death of her husband, The story as told was, "After the station was gone or when Lomando was no longer a scheduled stop for the railroad, the custom was to flag the train, the engineer would signal his recognition then stop for any passengers. Mrs. Pierce flagged the train but never moved from the tracks." It was considered to be a suicide. We never learned just where she was buried.

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#### ANDREW J. DODD FAMILY —

The railway station of Lomando was on the west side of the road and on land known at that time as the Dodd Farm. While no farmstead is there now the farm is still called the Dodd Farm.

Andrew Jackson Dodd was born at Rolla, Phelps County, Missouri, Oct. 15, 1846. His parents were Andrew J. and Julia Ann (Perry) Dodd. He spent all of his early life in Missouri. When still a youth he was a Private in Co. E. 6th Provisional Enrolled Missouri Militia, during the Civil War.

On June 27, 1869, Andrew J. was married to Frances Arabelle Brightwell, at Frankfort, Mo. She was the daughter of Therett and Florinda Scott (Hawkins) Brightwell.

About 1898, the Dodds traded their farm in Chariton Co. Mo. for a farm in Everett Township, Woodson County. This was the northeast quarter of section 28, Twp. 24, R. 16. Mr. Dodd and the older boys brought their possessions with team and wagon, while Mrs. Dodd and other children came by train. Mr. and

Mrs. Andrew J. Dodd lived on this farm until 1913, when they moved to Yates Center.

They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in July.



Andrew Jackson Dodd, Sr. and wife Frances Arabelle Dodd in 1929. This picture was used in an article about them in the Rotogravure section of the Kansas City Star, of August 11, 1929, which was also their 60th wedding anniversary at their home in Yates Center. They were the parents of eleven children. Rufus Commodore, Susan Florinda, Robert A. who married Margaret E. Koehl; Kathryn F., married Wm. M. Saltonstall; Julia Ann, who married Arthur M. Freeman; Mary Frances, who married Edmund H. Smith; William Therett, who married Maud W. Danley. They had two daughters, Dorothea and Avlyn. After the death of Maud Dodd, he married Stella May (Laymon) Bell. Andrew Jackson, Jr., who married Lola Lee Sterling. After her death he married Ruth Ann Holmes. Deane Dee, married Beulah Christie; Loula Ninnie, who married Herbert I. Cooper; Norman Perry, married Ona Mae Baker.

William, Jack, Jr., Deane, Loula and Norman all attended the North Maple School.

William, or better known as Bill Dodd lived on the home place for about forty years before moving to Neosho Falls. He was Trustee of Everett Township for a good many years.



The members of the Piqua Band as they appeared in 1915.

Top row left to right: Father Heiman, Carl Westerman, John Wille, G.C. Kuestersteffen, Ben Westerman, Lawrence King, and George Ulrick.

Bottom row: Ed Neiman, Ben Konen, Henry J. Kipp, Bill Westerman, Anthony Wille, Charles Kipp, Henry Wille.

## COOPER'S CAVE —

On a branch of North Owl Creek in the northeast quarter of section 29-24-15, among some large rocks is a natural cave known as Cooper's cave. The name Cooper comes from William Cooper who owned this particular section of land as a part of his ranch along Owl Creek in the 1870's.

For many years Cooper's Cave was a popular picnic and recreation place. Many names, initials and dates have been carved into the large sandstone rocks surrounding the cave.

The first story we have concerning this cave goes back to just after the Civil War, when Henry A. Cook whose homestead was about a mile to the east of the cave, was hunting along the stream that went by the cave. Walking along between the large rocks he stooped to enter into the cave. Unknown to him a female bobcat had taken her young kittens into the cave, and as Cook entered the mother bobcat attacked him before he knew what was happening. He had his large single shot buffalo gun with him, but could not use due to the cramped position in the cave and the surprise attack. The cat had jumped on him and made deep claw scratches in his neck that left scars for the rest of his life.

On another occasion Cook was hunting in the timber and blackjacks about a mile to the southeast of the cave when he shot and crippled an elk. The wounded animal turned on him before he could reload his rifle. Cook jumped into a deep, narrow ditch and lay flat. The animal tore up the ground with its horns around wher Cook was laying, but could not reach him with its horns and after quite a while moved away.

Back to the cave - There is a space of about four or five feet separating some of these rocks with about a distance of 15 to 20 feet in height. It is told that a hunchback rider named Dick Gatling, who was known for his ability in riding and training horses, once made his horse jump across this deep crevice. The story was also told that for many years later the horse shoe prints where the horse landed could be seen. While most of the cowboys and riders in the early days carried a gun Gatling used a cattle or blacksnake whip, with which he could use expertly.

The Yates Center News of July 31, 1896, carried this.

Wednesday about 30 young people drove out to Cooper's Cave. They were taken by T.L. Reid in his picnic wagon drawn by four horses. Going were: Mrs. Gussie Sherman, Mrs. Geo. Lewis.

Misses: Anna Metcalf, Pearl Turner, Anna Parsons, Margaret Templin, Fannie Greenman, Edna Carpenter, Vinnie Ream, Olive Cullison, Maude Reid, Dimple Lewis, Irma Lewis, Edith Dutro, Lena Dutro, Edith Cooper, Ollie Howe, Lizzie Howe.

Messrs: George Lewis, A.P. Epperson, Dr. O.B. Trusler, T.L. Reid, Henry Stitcher, Charles Lewis, Ernest Gault, Ernest Hogueland, and Yates Dobyns.

# **PATRONS OF THE WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

John V. Glades Agency  
Woodson Co. Coop  
State Exchange Bank  
Street Abstract Co., Inc.  
Schornick Oil Co.  
Self Service Grocery  
Krueger's Variety  
Walter A. Bowers  
Hi-Way Food Basket  
Farmer's Coop Piqua  
Gualding Oil Co.  
Morton Equipment Co.  
Swope & Son Impl. Co.  
Campbell Plumbing & Electric  
Clyde Hill  
Cantrell Buick-Pontiac  
Paul C. Laidlaw  
Rogers Brothers Garage  
Charles H. Carpenter  
Newtex Manufacturing Co.  
J.C. Schnell  
Wood-Perkins Dept. Store  
Smith Furniture & Funeral Home  
Superior Building Supply, Inc.  
Marie Beine  
Ted West  
Kimbell Ranch—Ed Kimbell  
Pringle Ranch—J.W. & J. Richard

Al's Jewelry  
First National Bank—Toronto  
Blackjack Cattle Co.  
Yates Center Elevator Co.  
Jasper's Shopping Spot  
Bill Taylor-Gen. Agent  
Woodson Co. Farm Bureau  
Atkin Clinic  
Daly Western Supply  
Pyeatte-Jaynes Ins. Agency  
Dyer Chevrolet Co.  
Linde Barber Shop  
House of Fabrics  
Brown's Western Auto  
Donald E. Ward  
Wilma Mark  
Milton Wrampe  
Gambles Friendly Store  
E.E. Light  
Yates Center News  
Everybody's Grocery  
Baker Rexall Drug Store  
Yates Center Skelgas Service  
Campbell Furniture & Undertaking  
Piqua State Bank  
Don & Neva's Tastee-Freez  
Security Oil Co.  
L. & S. Meat Market

